



**This Memorial Day, it is important for us to remember all the sacrifices the men and women of our Armed Forces have made to defend our country. Our military today is under severe strain, with our active duty, Guardsmen and Reservists serving multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. As the father of a Gulf War veteran, I know the strain this service places on families and our soldiers. It is not only tough for families to adjust to the family member being away, it is often just as tough for the soldier to adjust to everyday life upon returning home. At the same time, it has become apparent that our systems for helping veterans return from the front lines are not adequate, particularly regarding the care of the wounded. This is unacceptable, and we are working to fix it.**

## **A Memorial Day Message from U.S. Congressman Jerry Costello**



# U.S. CONGRESSMAN JERRY F. COSTELLO

## CONGRESS WORKING TO IMPROVE VETERANS' HEALTH CARE



### Jerry F. Costello

12th District Illinois  
Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

#### District Offices:

144 Lincoln Place Ct., Suite 4  
Belleville, IL 62221  
(618) 233-8026  
(618) 233-8765 fax

2060 Delmar Ave., Suite B  
Granite City, IL 62040  
(618) 451-7065  
(618) 451-2126 fax

8787 State St., Suite 102  
East St Louis, IL 62203  
(618) 397-8833  
(618) 397-7065 fax

250 W. Cherry St.  
Carbondale, IL 62901  
(618) 529-3791  
(618) 549-3768 fax

1330 Swanwick St.  
Chester, IL 62233  
(618) 826-3043  
(618) 826-1923 fax

201 E. Nolen St.  
West Frankfort, IL 62896  
(618) 937-6402  
(618) 937-3307 fax

#### Washington Office:

2048 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5661  
(202) 225-0285 fax

*"I will continue to fight to see  
that veterans get the respect  
they deserve and the quality  
health care they were promised."*

— US Congressman  
Jerry F. Costello

- The House budget calls for a **\$6.6 billion increase in VA Health Care spending**, the largest annual increase in 77 years and \$3.5 billion more than requested by President Bush.

- The House and Senate approved an **immediate \$3.3 billion for military health care** costs as part of the Iraq Supplemental

Appropriations bill, including \$450 million for post-traumatic stress disorder research and treatment and \$450 million for traumatic brain injury care and research.

- The House passed the **Wounded Warrior Assistance Act**, which begins the process of reforming the case management system for wounded soldiers. Every service member assigned to a military treatment facility would have a case manager with a limited case load to assist with the recovery process, including meetings at least once a week.

### Have a question?

Health benefits – 877.222.8387

Education benefits – 888.442.4551

VA Life Insurance – 800.669.8477

Office of Service Member Group Life Insurance – 800.419.1473

CHAMPVA – 800.733.8387

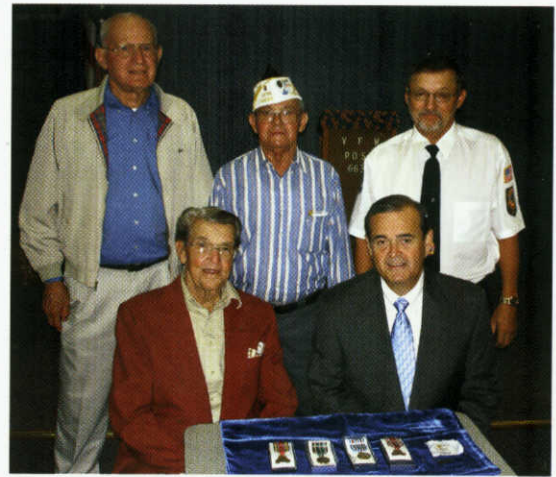
Gulf War Veterans – 800.749.8387

Status of Headstone claims – 800.697.6947

Telecommunication Device for Deaf (TDD) – 800.829.4833

Direct Deposit for checks – 877.838.2778

To sign up for an e-newsletter on veterans and other issues, go to my web page: [www.house.gov/costello](http://www.house.gov/costello)



Congressman Costello presents World War II military medals to Orloff Offering

U.S. Congressman Jerry F. Costello  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC



*Jerry F. Costello*  
M.C.  
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